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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Friends unite in search for missing woman

Group in 'go-mode' four days after disappearance PAGE 4

TIME FOR A CLOSER LOOK AT SHOWGIRLS

CRITICS NOW ARGUING THE MOVIE IS ACTUALLY SNEAKY SATIRE; USE METRO AR TO JUDGE FOR YOURSELF PAGE 22

JUST AN ORDINARY MLA

Former premier Alison Redford returned to work as the backbench MLA for the riding of Calgary-Elbow at the legislature in Edmonton on Monday. Redford had not been in the legislature since she resigned March 23 in a scandal over lavish spending and allegations of imperious behaviour toward staff and colleagues. DEAN BENNETT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aviation museum needs city cash beneath its wings

$2M funding request. Treasurer says airport closure has sunk profits

RYAN TUMILTY
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Alberta Aviation Museum board members told city councillors Monday they need a long-term lease and as much as $2 million over the next five years to keep the museum aloft.

The museum came to council for a routine update and said they needed those guarantees or they would face some tough decisions, including the possible closure of the museum.

Richard Skermer, the museum's treasurer, said they need a complete picture of where they are headed.

"We're really not trying to put a gun to anybody's head, it's just it's time to actually make these things happen," he said.

He told councillors the closure of the airport means they've lost 30 to 40 per cent of their revenues that used to come from fly-in events at the museum.

He said the $2-million figure isn't a firm number, but a starting point of what the museum could need.

"This was just an overall conversation to say that it could be up to $2 million as we stratify the vision that will probably drop," he said.

Councillors moved to have administration work on a business plan with the museum while work on the lease was already underway.

Coun. Bev Esslinger said they fully support the museum, but they were a little surprised by the size of the financial request.

Hat in hand

> **"We're really not trying to put a gun to anybody's head, it's just it's time to actually make these things happen."**
> Museum treasurer Richard Skermer

"The scope surprised everyone today and so I think we need to have more conversations about that," she said.

Esslinger said she's confident the issues can be resolved and the museum will be part of the new community.

"I believe there's a commitment to work with the Aviation Museum and move it forward, but I think what we found out today is there's a lot more conversation that obviously has to happen," she said.

Council will get a report on the issue back in July.

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NEWS

'Transition.' Redford returns to legislature as backbencher

Former premier Alison Redford returned to the legislature Monday for the first time since she quit the province's top job more than a month ago.

However, in a scrum with reporters, she declined to discuss issues that arose after she left, including her plan while premier to have taxpayers build her and her daughter a lavish penthouse suite on top of a government building.

"I know you all reported on that story within a week of my stepping down," said Redford.

"I don't think that anything is gained by continuing to comment on that story, and I have nothing else to add."

Other issues include Redford taking her daughter on multiple trips, including one to Jasper during the height of last year's flooding in southern Alberta. Redford deflected answers on those as well, saying she addressed her daughter's travel when the issue of an unrelated trip to Vancouver arose before she stepped down.

Redford then asked reporters: "Do you have anything new or are we done?"

"What went wrong for you in your premiership?" she was asked.

"I don't know if I'm going to spend much time reflecting on that at the moment," she replied. "I certainly, as you know, am in the middle of a transition."

Redford stepped down as premier on March 23, ahead of a reported caucus revolt over opulent spending on herself and her inner circle.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cause of death undetermined. Child death review shows pregnant woman was prescribed 5,000 pills

Alberta's child advocate is demanding changes in social services and health care following a newborn's death in 2012.

Del Graff said in his report Monday that the two-week-old girl's cause of death was undetermined. But her mother, whose six other children ended up in government care, had been abusing prescription drugs while pregnant.

He found that 11 doctors had prescribed the woman nearly 5,000 pills during her pregnancy — many were refills that didn't require a doctor's appointment and many came from the same pharmacy.

An investigation showed the woman's primary doctor wasn't aware of her pregnancy and an obstetrician initially didn't know she was taking any drugs.

The mother missed a public health appointment four days before she found her baby, sitting in a car seat at home, not breathing.

Graff made five recommendations, including a demand for better information sharing among agencies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Group wants city to have a Market District

Market to market. Permanent public market being proposed

STEPHANIE DUBOIS
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Toronto has one, Vancouver has one and soon Edmonton's Stony Plain Road could be crowned a Market District if a local group is successful in raising the necessary cash.

With a market showcase event planned for August in hopes of raising $5,000, organizers hope to show off what the west end has to offer and just how great a permanent Market District could be.

"We have got a lot of interest out there, but we just have to pull it all together," said Diane Kereluk, executive director of Stony Plain Road and Area Business Association.

The group is eying a 17,000-square-foot lot at 156 Street and Stony Plain Road as the potential location for a permanent market that would allow people to shop year-round, several days a week.

Association members are hoping the single day-long public market occasion called YEG Market Back Alley Event on Aug. 24 will spark further interest and much needed investor dollars to bring a public market to the west end.

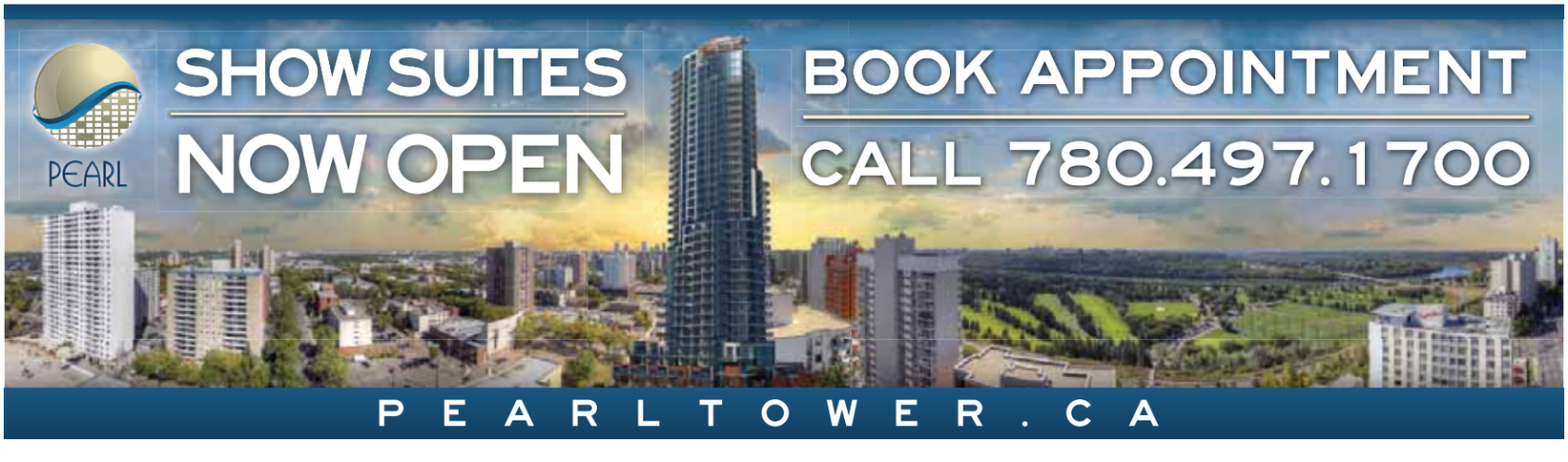
"Edmonton does not have a Market District per se and this has been a long time coming," said Kereluk.

This artist rendering depicts what organizers have in mind for a Market District on Stony Plain Road, something they say is needed in the west end. An online campaign and a one-day event in August will be held to raise money as well as help find a potential investor for the project. COURTESY DIANE KERELUK

Goal

$5,000

Organizers want to raise $5,000 at their YEG Market Back Alley Event to launch a permanent Market District in the west end.



Group gets co-ordinated in search for missing woman

Louise Veillard.
Friends take to the web for possible clues

LEAH GERMAIN
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Almost four days after she first disappeared, friends and family of Louise Veillard haven't given up hope they'll find the Edmonton woman.

Enlisting the help of aerial support, Veillard's family chartered a helicopter Monday morning to scour the city's river valley for potential clues on the 26-year-old, who was last seen Friday.

Saima Butt, a friend of Veillard's, said the search has also gone viral, thanks to the skills of Veillard's close friends and family.

"She's friends with organizers, we work in community, we organize campaigns. We organize," Butt said.

"We've been able to utilize our networks and shift into 'go' mode," she added.

Along with the Facebook group, a website has been developed to answer frequently asked questions about Veillard's disappearance, along with a timeline of the information known so far.

"The support that has been pouring in has been amazing," Butt added.

According to Mike Hudema, a friend of Veillard who helped get the initial details out shortly after she went missing, there are a lot of people who care about the young woman's welfare.

Quoted

"We've been able to utilize our networks and shift into 'go' mode."

Saima Butt, organizer for Louise Veillard search effort

"Part of it is just the communities that Louise was involved in are a lot of different communities that have organized around a lot of different issues," said Hudema.

"I think just by having that skill set has really helped in making the effort to find information about her disappearance," he added.

For more information on search efforts for Veillard, visit findlouveillard.com.

Louise Veillard was first reported missing Friday. Friends and family continued search efforts Monday. CONTRIBUTED

Report urges independent evaluation of teachers

Education Minister Jeff Johnson, right, is looking to have teachers evaluated independently following a damning task-force report. METRO FILE

A proposal being eyed by the Alberta government to have teachers independently evaluated and disciplined is an attack on the profession, says the head of the Alberta Teachers' Association.

"It can be viewed very simply as a direct assault on teachers in the province and on the profession itself," Mark Ramsankar told reporters.

Ramsankar was responding to a new government task-force report delivered Monday on improving teacher performance.

The report says the system of evaluating teachers and ruling on accusations of professional misconduct is not working.

The main reason, it said, is because the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) is in a conflict of interest because it oversees teacher performance as a professional organization but also has to protect teacher interests as a union.

"There are insurmountable conflicts of interest created when professions strive to concurrently serve two masters through a single organization," says the report.

It said that numbers suggest having the ATA resolve complaints against teachers is not working.

"In the past 10 years, there have been no cases in which a (teaching certificate) has been cancelled due to incompetence," it noted.

"Given the province has over 40,000 teachers, the task force found this statistic almost inconceivable."

Education Minister Jeff Johnson said while the report is going to have some detractors, that's no reason not to proceed.

"I'm not as concerned about what's right for an organization as I am what's right for kids," said Johnson.

He stressed the 25 recommendations are now going to be reviewed by the government over the summer while it collects feedback.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WIN House 3. Shelter for immigrant women stays closed, awaits stable cash

The doors of a shelter for immigrant women will remain closed until the provincial and federal government step up with more funding, city councillors heard Monday.

Councillors got an update on WIN House 3, which shut down last fall. Despite a $250,000 donation toward reopening the facility last year, the shelter has decided not to re-open until it has long-term sustainable funding.

The city helped develop a business case for the shelter, estimating it would cost about $550,000 a year to run and that 80 per cent of that funding should come in a sustainable contribution from government.

Coun. Amarjeet Sohi said it was time for the provincial and federal governments to step up.

"It's truly a shameful situation and it needs to change," he said.

Tess Gordey of Edmonton Women's Shelters RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Councillors passed a motion calling on Mayor Don Iveson to engage with both the federal and provincial government on the issue.

Tess Gordey, executive director of Edmonton Women's Shelters, said she is hopeful that council's backing will lead to more support.

"The more friends you can gain, the better it is for vying for very limited resources," she said. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Lotto 6-49

Edmontonians win $1 million

Russell and Sheila Brown are the lucky Edmonton winners of $1 million after the Lotto 6-49 draw on April 23.

Purchasing a $4 ticket from Sobeys Hawkstone, Russell checked the ticket after the following draw.

"It didn't display very quickly, and I thought, 'Oh no, I broke it,'" he said. "Then it said, 'Appears to be a $1,000,000 winner.' I walked away and thought to myself, 'Calm down and use your head,'" he said in a release. METRO

Jayme Pasieka

Accused in mass stabbing to get psych assessment

A man charged with killing two people and wounding others in a multiple stabbing at a grocery warehouse will receive a private psychiatric assessment.

Defence lawyer Peter Royal also told court Monday that the province has denied legal aid to his client Jayme Pasieka. Royal said he plans to appeal the decision to Court of Queen's Bench.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Edmontonian Christy Foley is now one of 705 applicants worldwide still in the running for a mission to Mars with the not-for-profit group Mars One. METRO FILE

One step closer to an Edmontonian on Mars

Mars One. Christy Foley one of two locals left among 705 candidates for the one-way voyage

RYAN TUMILTY
ryan.tumilty@metronews.ca

An Edmonton woman's dreams are getting ever closer to blasting off, now that she has cleared another hurdle for the Mars One mission.

The controversial mission plans to send everyday people to Mars on a one-way trip, with no chance of return.

Christy Foley is one of two Edmontonians among the 705 people who are still in the running for the red planet. She said making the next cut is a big step, but now she's worried about the interview process.

"That's a little nerve-wracking. I am working on preparing for it, but it's hard to know what they are looking for," she said.

Foley said she wants to go to Mars because she thinks it's important to humanity's advancement. She pointed out that NASA's long history has led to a lot of innovations that don't involve space travel.

"All the innovation that comes from space travel has ripples beyond, way beyond, simply getting to Mars," she said.

Not everyone is happy about Foley's advancement; she said her parents are still worried about the one-way trip, but she likens it to the first Europeans who came to North America.

"The only amount of communication they had was letters they could send on a subsequent ship, that may or may not have crossed the ocean," she said.

The mission's chief medical officer said the personal interviews will help them determine who will be best able to handle the mission.

"They will have to show their knowledge, intelligence, adaptability and personality," said Norbert Kraft in a statement.

Competitors

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AMVIC

Canadian officer says 'toxic' environment led to desertion

Court martial. Lt. Derek De Jong testifies he left his post aboard HMCS Preserver due to being the target of harassment

Maria De Jong, wife of Lt. Derek De Jong, attends his court martial in Halifax on Monday. De Jong, who left his post on a navy supply vessel, has pleaded guilty to a charge of desertion. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An officer in the Royal Canadian Navy who pleaded guilty to desertion testified Monday that he left his post on a ship after he was subjected to deplorable behaviour that included a colleague urinating on his cabin floor.

Lt. Derek De Jong, 43, told a court martial that while he was wrong to leave his post aboard HMCS Preserver, he was harassed and his commanding officer failed to properly investigate his concerns.

De Jong left the supply vessel on Sept. 17, 2012, while it was docked in Key West, Fla., and he returned to Halifax, where he turned himself in to military police.

Quoted

"It's not a norm in Canadian society that we treat each other this way." Lt. Derek De Jong

He said there were a series of incidents leading up to his desertion that began in late August that year.

On Aug. 20, De Jong had a conflict with another crew member over the handling of alleged misbehaviour by a female subordinate, he told his sentencing hearing.

The next day, a female officer came into his cabin while he was still asleep, pulled down her pants, squatted and urinated on the floor, he said.

De Jong said he reported the incident to the supply officer and the ship's commanding officer but no formal inquiry resulted.

He said a senior officer later joked, "Some men have to pay for a service like that," and a sign was briefly attached to his cabin door that said, "Women's head," a reference to a nautical term for a woman's bathroom.

"I don't think people should have to tolerate this kind of behaviour," De Jong said Monday.

He said after the incident he felt he was working in a "toxic" environment, and he heard second-hand that he was no longer welcome in the wardroom among officers and other colleagues. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Up-to-date scores

Canada TOP 5

1 178 points Saudah-Toronto

2 155 points Niramay-Toronto

3 141 points Phally-London

4 131 points Ritik-Vancouver

5 129 points Salvatore-Toronto

metro AR

See this symbol? You can scan the photo above with your Metro News app to play the game. The top 5 winners in Metro will be contacted by May 16th and will win a Canadian Olympic Committee blanket. Subject to terms and conditions outlined in game. QC not eligible.

Kinder Morgan. Oil spill comments taken out of context, company says

Kinder Morgan is on the defensive over a proposal to expand its Trans Mountain pipeline through British Columbia, after the company was ridiculed for saying an oil spill can have positive economic effects.

In its 15,000-page application to the National Energy Board, the company said spill response and cleanup creates business and employment opportunities for affected regions.

The story made headlines and the company was roasted by MSNBC talk show host Rachel Maddow over the weekend.

"Pipeline spills can have both positive and negative effects on local and regional economies, both in the short- and long-term," the company said in its submission to the National Energy Board.

"Spill response and cleanup creates business and employment opportunities for affected communities, regions, and cleanup service providers."

But the reference is taken out of context from a section of the application that looks specifically at the socio-economic effects of a worst-case scenario spill, Kinder Morgan Canada said Monday.

Kinder Morgan is required to analyze both positive and negative effects of a spill in its project application, the company said.

"Let me be clear: No spill is acceptable to me anywhere, any time, for any reason. Spills are not good for anyone. Period," president Ian Anderson said in a statement.

"Regrettably, some have taken a reference from our 15,000-page application to the National Energy Board out of context to suggest otherwise."

The total effect of a spill is negative, Anderson said, and in no way is money spent on spill response a justification for the pipeline.

"Spills are not part of our economic benefits analysis, nor do we in any way say that money spent on spill response would be justification for our project," he said.

The $5.4-billion expansion would almost triple the capacity of the pipeline that links the Alberta oil sands to Port Metro Vancouver. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Elections

NDP calls on PM to answer questions about robocalls

The NDP wants Prime Minister Stephen Harper to explain how the Conservative party's massive database wound up being used to send misleading robocalls to voters during the 2011 election campaign, with a motion planned to move Tuesday asking to study the ways the database was used as "a voter suppression tool." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Opposition

Compassion demanded for soldier with PTSD

Opposition parties accused the Harper government of breaking its word, demanding the military show compassion for Master Cpl. Kristian Wolowidnyk, who attempted suicide last year and has been put back on the fast-track for dismissal The military backed down when his case became public, but last week reversed itself and said he doesn't qualify to remain in the military. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Foreign Minister Georges Rebelo Chicoti of Angola shows U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry nearby government buildings following meetings at the Ministry of Finance in Luanda, Angola. SAUL LOEB/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kerry to Africa: Reject violence

'The will of the people.'
The U.S. is behind in the race to reap economic benefits in the continent

Travelling from lush green hilltops to hot dusty roads and seaside ports, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry asked African nations last week to make a choice: Choose democracy. Embrace economic stability. Reject violence, and move people into the modern world.

It was an optimistic offer, and the kind of Western attitudes the U.S. is used to espousing. But two conflict-wracked African nations said no, challenging the limits of American influence in a continent emerging as the next land of opportunity for foreign financial investors.

So far, the U.S. is lagging in the worldwide race to reap economic benefits in Africa, and President Barack Obama is hosting a summit in August for leaders of more than 40 African nations to try to build stronger financial ties. The refusal by several leaders to heed Kerry's urgings confronts the Obama administration with a choice: Pursue economic opportunities with governments that do not respect rule of law or human rights, or take a backseat in global competition by shunning sub-Saharan countries.

"This is up to the will of the people, and the will of leaders," Kerry told about 100 diplomats and local activists gathered at an environmentally friendly tukul hut atop a hilltop in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

In what appears to be the biggest flop of his trip, Kerry announced a tentative agreement to restart stalled peace talks in South Sudan, where U.S. officials say fighting between President Salva Kiir and former vice-president-turned-rebel leader Riek Machar have plunged the world's newest nation into a civil war. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shooting at VA hospital in Ohio injures 1 person

A shooting at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Ohio on Monday left one person with a minor injury and a suspect in police custody, according to a city official.

The male suspect was taken into custody Monday afternoon after someone dropped him off at a hospital, Dayton spokesman Bryan Taulbee said.

One person suffered a minor leg injury at the Dayton clinic, said Taulbee, who didn't know if the victim was a man or woman.

The suspect is from suburban Dayton, and there were no other shooters involved, Taulbee said.

Employees told media outlets that at least part of the complex was locked down around the lunch hour on Monday. WDTN showed video of employees leaving the centre while FBI agents went inside.

The centre has beds for about 450 people and provides veterans with medical, mental health and nursing home care.

Four years ago, an Iraq War Army veteran wearing military fatigues fatally shot himself at a monument to soldiers outside the same hospital.

The man, Jesse C. Huff, had been a patient there.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police gather outside a Veterans Affairs hospital after people who were evacuated were told they could re-enter. AL BEHRMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Bankruptcy woes

Detroit counting on $195M from the state

Detroit is expecting a lump sum of $194.8 million from the state to shore up pensions and prevent the sale of valuable art as it tries to emerge from bankruptcy later this year, the city said Monday.

The details were in Detroit's latest strategy plan filed in bankruptcy court. It comes just days before ballots go out to thousands of creditors, including retirees and city employees personally affected by the largest public bankruptcy in U.S. history.

The payment from the state is being treated as the current value of shelling out $350 million over two decades.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Portrait of Dirck van Os

Omaha museum to show original Rembrandt

The Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha is preparing to once again exhibit its original Rembrandt, decades after it was downgraded and became regarded as merely a work by one of his students.

The museum plans to have the Portrait of Dirck van Os placed in its Hitchcock Gallery for public viewing on Tuesday after an absence of around 15 years. It's been restored and embellishments added by others have been removed.

Rembrandt experts have examined the painting and certified it as an original work by the 17th-century Dutch master.

Rembrandts have sold in the tens of millions of dollars in recent years.

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Russian soldiers rehearse for

A Russian honour guard soldier warms up prior to a rehearsal for the Victory Day Celebrated on May 9, Victory Day is Russia's most important secular holiday and

Calif. law try to right

Hong Yeng Chang. Ivy League graduate thought to be the first Chinese immigrant to become an American lawyer

In a decision still studied in law schools as a 19th century lesson in bigotry, the California Supreme Court in 1890 denied Hong Yeng Chang's application to practise law solely because he was Chinese.

Now, students at a northern California law school are working to right that wrong. They hope to persuade the current court to reverse its 124-year-old decision.

Students at the University of California Davis School of Law's Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and two professors have submitted an application to practise law to the State Bar of California on behalf of Chang. It is a first step before approaching the high court, which licenses California's attorneys.

The state bar vets all California applications and recommends approval or denial to the California Supreme Court. The Supreme Court usually follows the recommendation of the state bar.

"This is a unique situation and we don't know what the Committee of Bar Examiners will do with the application," spokeswoman Laura Ernde said. The committee is scheduled to consider the application in late June.

Approving Chang's application would correct a personal injustice and serve a broader public interest purpose, the students and professors wrote the state bar.

"Admitting Mr. Chang would be a powerful symbol of our state's repudiation of laws that singled out Chinese immigrants for discrimination," said Gabriel "Jack" Chin, a profes-

Victory Day parade

military parade at Dvortsovaya (Palace) Square in St. Petersburg, Russia, Monday. marks the defeat of Nazi Germany. DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argentine government delivers knockout blow to tax dodgers

Argentina's tax agency says it used a boxing match in Las Vegas to identify 17 tax evaders.

The agency released a statement Monday titled "A Knockout for Taxpayers."

It said it is investigating people who claimed to have small incomes while paying up to $7,500 each to travel to Nevada to watch Saturday's fight between world welterweight champion Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Argentine boxer Marcos Maidana.

The agency says those 17 people have since been removed from a list of low-income Argentines and must now pay taxes consistent with their large expenses. It says one also has a $150,000 Porsche.

The agency says it will now enforce stricter controls on Argentines attending sporting events abroad, including the soccer World Cup in Brazil that kicks off on June 12.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caught red-handed

The government is investigating people who claimed to have small incomes while paying up to $7,500 each to travel to Nevada to watch a boxing match.

students old wrong

sor at UC Davis School of Law and the student association's adviser.

Chang studied at Yale University and Columbia Law School, graduating from Columbia in 1886. After initially being denied a chance to take New York's bar exam, a special act of the state legislature enabled him to sit for the test and pass. The New York Times reported at the time that Chang was the first Chinese immigrant to become an American lawyer.

In 1890, he moved to California with plans to practice law and represent the burgeoning Chinese population in San Francisco. But the California Supreme Court turned down Chang's application, citing the federal Chinese Exclusion Act — which barred Chinese natives from obtaining U.S. citizenship — and a California law prohibiting non-citizens from practising law.

"It's a pretty notorious decision," Chin said.

This undated family photo shows Hong Yeng Chang.
CHANG FAMILY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chin said that Chang's case is well-known in legal circles interested in combatting discrimination. He also said the project is a good lesson for the students of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association.

"Every student can put themselves in his position," Chin said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Boko Haram leader threatens to sell kidnapped girls in Nigeria

National outrage. Protesters criticize military, President Goodluck Jonathan for inaction

The leader of an extremist Islamic group in Nigeria is threatening to sell the nearly 300 teenage schoolgirls abducted from a school in the remote northeast three weeks ago, in a new videotape received Monday.

Abubakar Shekau for the first time also claimed responsibility for the April 15 mass abduction, warning that his group plans to attack more schools and abduct more girls.

"I abducted your girls," said the leader of Boko Haram, which means "Western education is sinful."

He described the girls as "slaves" and said, "By Allah, I will sell them in the marketplace." The hour-long video starts with fighters lifting automatic rifles and shooting in the air as they chant "Allahu akbar!" or "God is great."

It was unclear if the video was made before or after reports emerged last week that some of the girls have been forced to marry their abductors — who paid a nominal bride price of $12 — and that others have been carried into neighbouring Cameroon and Chad. Those reports could not be verified.

In the video, Shekau also said the students "will remain slaves with us." That appears a reference to the ancient jihadi custom of enslaving women captured in a holy war, who then can be used for sex.

"They are slaves and I will sell them because I have the market to sell them," he said, speaking in the Hausa language of northern Nigeria.

The video was reviewed by The Associated Press, and both the face and the voice of the leader of Boko Haram were recognizable.

Shekau brushed off warnings that the abductions could be an international crime, saying in English, as if to reach his accusers in the international community: "What do you know about human rights? You're just claiming human rights (abuses), but you don't know what it is."

The mass abduction and the military's failure to rescue the girls and young women have ignited national outrage with demonstrations in major cities. Protesters accused President Goodluck Jonathan of insensitivity to the girls' plight.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman attends a demonstration calling on the government to increase efforts to rescue the 276 missing kidnapped school girls of government secondary school Chibok, in Lagos, Nigeria, Monday. SUNDAY ALAMBA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHO declares spread of polio a public health emergency

In this file photo from April 2013, a Somali child receives a polio vaccine at the Medina Maternal Child Health Center in Mogadishu, Somalia.
BEN CURTIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

For the first time ever, the World Health Organization on Monday declared the spread of polio an international public health emergency that could grow in the next few months and unravel the nearly three-decade effort to eradicate the crippling disease.

The agency described current polio outbreaks across at least 10 countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East as an "extraordinary event" that required a co-ordinated international response. It identified Pakistan, Syria and Cameroon as having allowed the virus to spread beyond their borders, and recommended that those three governments require citizens to obtain a certificate proving they have been vaccinated for polio before travelling abroad.

"Until it is eradicated, polio will continue to spread internationally, find and paralyze susceptible kids," Dr. Bruce Aylward, who leads WHO's polio efforts, said during a press briefing. Critics, however, questioned whether Monday's announcement would make much of a difference, given the limits faced by governments confronting not only polio but armed insurrection and widespread poverty.

"What happens when you continue whipping a horse to go ever faster, no matter how rapidly he is already running?" said Dr. Donald A. Henderson, who led the WHO's initiative to get rid of smallpox, the only human disease ever to have been eradicated.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Neighbour tells trial he believes Pistorius shot girlfriend in error

Two-week recess. Defence tries to regain momentum after prosecutors appear to poke holes in double-amputee's story

Using witness accounts of a panicked nighttime phone call from Oscar Pistorius begging for help and his desperate pleas for Reeva Steenkamp to stay alive, the defence at his murder trial tried to reinforce its case Monday that the double-amputee Olympian fatally shot his girlfriend in a tragic error of judgment.

Johan Stander and his daughter Carice Viljoen, neighbours and friends of Pistorius, testified that they were at the runner's villa soon after the shooting on Feb. 14, 2013 and that Pistorius was praying, trying to help Steenkamp breathe and urging her to live. The world-famous disabled runner had shot four times through a toilet cubicle door minutes earlier, hitting Steenkamp in the hip, arm and head.

Oscar Pistorius cradles his head in his hands in court Monday at the resumption of his murder trial, following a two week break, in Pretoria, South Africa. THOBILE MATHONSI, POOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stander testified that Pistorius phoned him at around 3:19 a.m. — about two minutes after the shooting. Pistorius told him he had thought Steenkamp was an intruder and shot her, Stander testified, and Stander and his daughter went to Pistorius' house after the runner pleaded for him to come.

"I saw the truth there that morning" Stander testified, saying he believed the shooting was accidental because of Pistorius' desperation when they found him carrying a bloodied Steenkamp downstairs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prosecutors' version

Prosecutors maintain Oscar Pistorius, 27, is lying about the perceived trespasser, and his story is designed to cover up that he killed his girlfriend in the midst of a heated argument.

- The prosecution has focussed on events before the killing — and not Pistorius' demeanour afterward — to try and show that his version is a fabrication.

Circus accident. Investigators focus on broken clamp

A carabiner is the only piece of equipment investigators have found that failed in a circus accident in which eight aerial acrobats plummeted to the ground, a public safety official said Monday.

Providence Public Safety Commissioner Steven Pare stopped short of saying the broken carabiner was the cause of Sunday's accident at the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey circus. He said federal workplace safety investigators were trying to determine why it snapped.

The four- to five-inch steel clamp was one of several pieces at the top of a chandelier-like apparatus that suspended the performers in the air, fire officials said. The clip was found in three pieces on the ground with its spine snapped.

Two of the acrobats were in critical condition Monday. Family members say their injuries included a pierced liver and neck and back fractures.

Performers hang during a stunt at the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus May 2. COURTESY FRANK CAPRIO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stephen Payne, a spokesman for Feld Entertainment, the parent company of Ringling Bros., said none of the injuries appear to be life-threatening.

The circus said the women are from the United States, Brazil, Bulgaria and Ukraine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Inmate asks for 6-month delay of execution

Oklahoma. Request for stay pending a review of Clayton Lockett incident

Attorneys for an Oklahoma inmate who was scheduled to be put to death the same night as a botched execution asked the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals on Monday to grant a delay for at least six months pending a review into what went wrong last week.

Attorneys for Charles Warner cited last week's execution of Clayton Lockett, who writhed on the gurney and moaned before being pronounced dead of an apparent heart attack 43 minutes after the execution began.

Warner was scheduled to die two hours after Lockett last week, but Gov. Mary Fallin issued a two-week delay pending a thorough inquiry into Lockett's execution.

"Given the Department of Corrections' recognition that it is in no position to carry out an execution that meets constitutional requirements, an indefinite stay is necessary," said Madeline Cohen, one of Warner's attorneys. "I think six months is the bare minimum that could be contemplated."

Warner was convicted of raping and killing an 11-month-old in 1997. He has maintained his innocence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drug combination

Last Tuesday was the first time Oklahoma used the sedative midazolam as the first element in its execution drug combination.

- States in the U.S. are finding it more difficult to find execution methods as more drug companies refuse to supply drugs that will be used in executions.

Two killed in crash

Canadian survey plane located

Colombian authorities said Monday they had located a Canadian-registered aircraft that crashed high in the Andes in northeastern Colombia. Two people aboard, both Canadians, were killed.

Rescue workers struggled over the weekend to reach the twin-engine Piper PA-31 Navajo because of poor visibility at the remote, high-altitude site where it crashed on Saturday.

It was not clear what led to the accident involving the plane, whose registry matched one belonging to Regina-based Oracle Geoscience International, which does aerial surveys for mining companies.

The civil aviation authority identified the victims as Peter Moore and Neville Ribeiro. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

29,000 workers

Haiti raises minimum wage

Haiti raised slightly its minimum wage for the estimated 29,000 workers who sew together T-shirts and other clothing in the country's apparel factories.

The new law says the workers will now earn about $5.11 per eight-hour workday — a 12.5 per cent increase. It falls far short of the equivalent of $11.36 per workday that protesting garment workers have demanded.

Last year's inflation rate in Haiti was 3.2 per cent.

The U.S.-based Worker Rights Consortium said in an October report that Haitian workers receive an average of 32 per cent less than what they should. An earlier report said that all of Haiti's 24 garment factories failed to pay workers even the minimum wage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At least 1 killed in wildfire

Myka Burton pours water on a roadside hot spot on Monday in Guthrie, Okla. Firefighters worked Monday to battle a large wildfire in central Oklahoma that destroyed at least six homes and left at least one person dead after a controlled burn spread out of control. NICK OXFORD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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N.L. town puts whale on eBay

Free shipping? Scheme shot down by site; now mayor hopes museum will show interest

A sperm whale carcass sits on shore in Cape St. George, N.L. The large carcass recently washed ashore, posing a problem other Newfoundland communities have had to deal with this season: how to dispose of one. CONTRIBUTED

A Newfoundland town's efforts to have a dead sperm whale removed from its coastline have hit a snag.

But the mayor of the community remains hopeful that someone will step forward to take the carcass of the 12-metre mammal off his hands.

Peter Fenwick, the mayor of Cape St. George on Newfoundland's west coast, put the whale up for sale on eBay. But the website took the auction down Monday because it violates its policies on animals and wildlife products, Fenwick said.

"Our major objective was to get rid of the whale, and we feel that there may be enough (people) out there who know about it, who may be interested in it," said Fenwick in an interview.

"So then we thought, 'Maybe there's a museum somewhere that would like to purchase it, and if there is, let's advertise it on eBay and see if anybody is interested.'"

He said he received a call from the federal Environment Department earlier in the day saying the sale of the whale could violate environmental regulations.

Two other Newfoundland communities recently reached a deal with the Royal Ontario Museum to retrieve the carcasses of blue whales that were rotting along their shores.

"If they call us, we'll be glad to talk to them and if they can come on down and arrange for a bit of equipment to do something, fine, they can get a free whale," said Fenwick with a laugh. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brave animals become Hall of Famers

Edmonton police officer Const. Matthew Williamson looks at a photo of him and his service dog Quanto during the 46th annual Purina Animal Hall of Fame ceremony in Toronto on Monday. Quanto died from stab wounds during an altercation with a suspect in the line of duty. The five-year-old German shepherd was among the four dogs and one cat being honoured. The event recognizes extreme acts of courage, bravery and devotion by Canadian pets and service animals.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Greece. 22 migrants die, others believed missing after smuggling boats capsize in Aegean Sea

Divers search a yacht used to transport immigrants illegally that overturned in a fatal accident at the port of Vathy on the Greek island of Samos, on Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/HELLENIC COAST GUARD

At least 22 people — including families trapped in a flooded cabin — drowned when a yacht and a dinghy crammed with migrants trying to slip into Greece capsized Monday in the eastern Aegean Sea, authorities said.

Rescue teams led a search for up to seven more people missing, in what was one of the deadliest migrant boat accidents in Greek waters in recent years and the third fatal one this year. Many on board were from war-torn or unstable countries in the Middle East and Africa.

The vessels overturned before dawn off the island of Samos, a favourite destination for migrant-smuggling gangs because it's close to the Turkish coast. The Greek coast guard said it was not immediately clear what caused the overloaded craft to capsize.

Photos showed a dead woman clasping a dead child in her arms inside the yacht, as coast guards hoisted the vessel upright on land with a crane.

Greece's merchant marine minister, Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, said he was "devastated" by the incident, adding that the government would press other European Union members to draw up a joint plan to fight migrant smugglers more effectively.

Despite the deep financial crisis that brought Greece to the brink of bankruptcy four years ago, the country remains a major entry point for people from poor or war-ravaged parts of Asia and Africa seeking a better life in the 28-nation European Union.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Modern-day slave traders are making a fortune by placing thousands of people's lives at risk, putting them on small and unsuitable boats at night in the Aegean."

Miltiadis Varvitsiotis, Greece's merchant marine minister

Congo

Two men sentenced to life, 13 acquitted in mass rape trial

A court has acquitted more than a third of the defendants in a rare trial held after mass rapes took place in eastern Congo.

Thirteen of the 38 men charged were acquitted, with the court citing a lack of evidence.

The judge, however, sentenced two soldiers to life in prison in connection with the mass rapes. Other defendants received sentences ranging from 10 to 20 years on lesser charges.

Authorities say at least 135 women and girls were raped in and around the town of Minova in eastern Congo in November 2012.

Witnesses said that for days, the Congolese army raped, killed and looted in anger and disarray after their defeat by rebels, before discipline could be re-established by army commanders.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Medical marijuana

Tweed Marijuana ships out drugs to Canadian clients

Tweed Marijuana, Canada's first publicly traded medical marijuana company, says it has shipped its first orders of the drug to clients.

Tweed started trading on the Toronto Venture Exchange last month and has a market capitalization of more than $113 million.

The company said Monday that the marijuana was produced at its Smiths Falls facility, near Ottawa, and complies with federal regulations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Controversial ingredient

Coca-Cola, PepsiCo working to remove BVO from all drinks

Coca-Cola and PepsiCo said Monday they're working to remove a controversial ingredient from all their drinks, including Mountain Dew, Fanta and Powerade.

The ingredient, called brominated vegetable oil, had been the target of petitions on Change.org by a U.S. teen who wanted it out of PepsiCo's Gatorade and Coca-Cola's Powerade. The petitions said the ingredient has been patented as a flame retardant and isn't approved for use in Japan and the EU.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gregg Steinhafel

Target CEO out after data breach

Target's CEO has become the first boss of a major corporation to lose his job over a breach of customer data, showing how responsibility for computer security now reaches right to the top.

Gregg Steinhafel, who was also president and chairman, stepped down nearly five months after Target disclosed a huge pre-Christmas breach in which hackers stole millions of customers' credit- and debit-card records. The theft badly damaged the store chain's reputation and profits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google hits play on music streaming service for Canadians

Music to our ears. Google Play Music fills the void for Canucks still waiting for Spotify and Pandora to come here

Google is stepping into the streaming music game in Canada with the launch of Google Play Music, the latest in a growing number of services that could change how Canadians listen to their favourite songs.

The company announced Monday that its all-access subscription service would be the centrepiece for a broader digital music service that offers music on mobile phones, tablets and personal computers.

Aside from streaming, users can also buy tracks for their personal collections, quite similar to Apple's iTunes store.

Google's streaming service is one of the most extensive offerings available to Canadians yet, and a highlight of the technology giant's launch into selling music in Canada.

Google Play Music users will have streaming access to 25 million songs, which the company says is several million more tracks than its U.S. users can access. The cost is $9.99 per month, after an introductory rate.

The rollout will be available for phones and tablets on both the Android operating system and Apple's iOS devices.

The Canadian version will cater to local tastes, which includes a selection of Francophone music and a playlist that showcases this year's Juno Award winners.

The presence of legal on-demand streaming music has been limited in Canada.

Last year, free streaming music service Songza opened an office in Toronto with the goal of getting a head start against its competitors like Spotify and Pandora, two popular international streaming services that aren't yet available in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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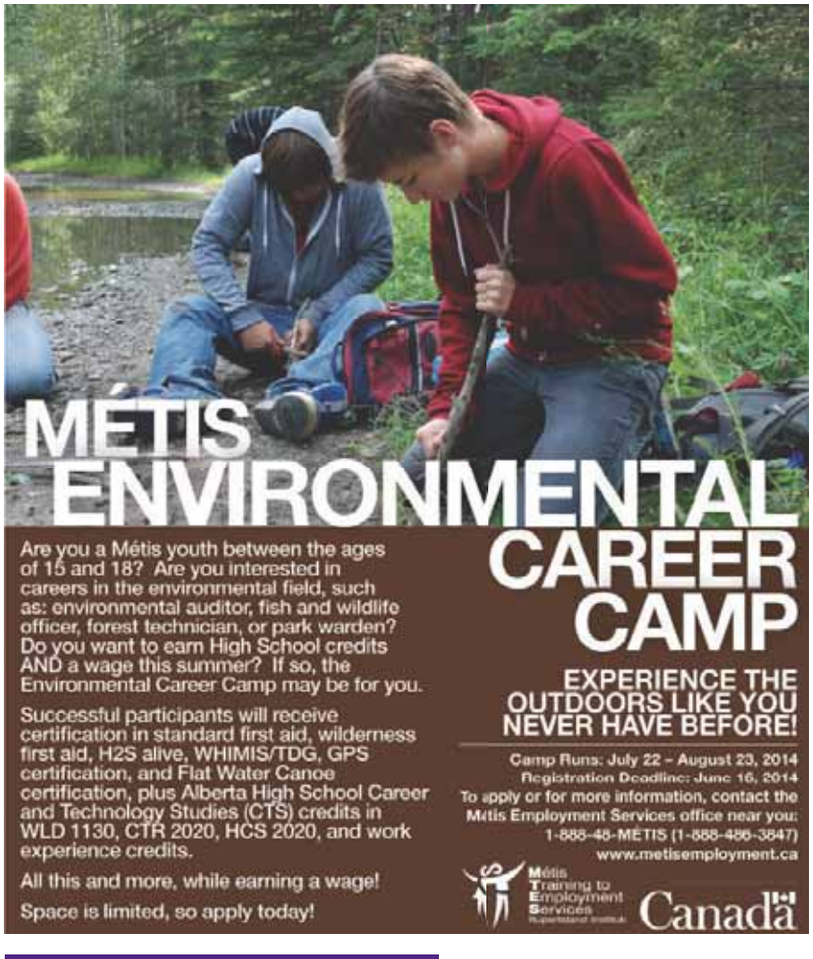
GOLD $1,309.30 US (+$6.40)

Natural gas: $4.70 US (-$0.08)
Dow Jones: 16,530.55 (+17.66)

Luxury brands flock to Great White North

A man walks past the Jimmy Choo shop in London, U.K. Two renowned luxury brands — Jimmy Choo and Versace — are launching their first stand-alone boutiques in Canada later this year. The shops are slated to open in Toronto. They join several other high-profile retailers and brands that have opened bricks-and-mortar locations in Canada over the past several years, including Microsoft, Ann Taylor, Loft, J. Crew and Target. Nordstrom will be following suit this fall with the opening of its first store in Calgary.

OLI SCARFF/GETTY IMAGES FILE



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DRAKE DOESN'T ALWAYS KNOW BEST

SHE SAYS
Jessica Napier
metronews.ca

It's incredibly easy for us to make new digital connections — you can acquire hundreds of online friends in minutes just by pressing a handful of buttons — but how much energy are you investing in working on your real-life social networks?

Friendships play a crucial role in our lives. Science has shown time and time again that maintaining close ties with our fellow human beings provides us with a wide variety of mental, emotional and physical benefits. One study even suggests that being lonely or having weak social bonds is a health risk comparable to smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day or being an alcoholic.

If platonic pals are beneficial for the mind, body and soul, reason would suggest that we try to accumulate as many as possible. However, evolutionary anthropologist Robin Dunbar argues that the cognitive limitations of our brains also impose limits on our ability to sustain stable social connections. You might have amassed hundreds of Facebook buddies, but humans can actually only comfortably maintain about an average of 150 genuine relationships. That number might be even lower for us technology obsessed, socially stunted Millennials.

So while TV sitcoms would have us believe we'll spend our whole lives hanging out with the same handful of people at the same bar year after year after year, real life doesn't work like that. If our brains can only handle a finite number of contacts, it's practical to audit your social circle every once in a while, online and in real life, to evaluate how and with whom you're spending your time.

As we get older, our interests and values inevitably change and we naturally begin to drift away from certain people. Drake might rap about having a No New Friends policy, but we do ourselves and the people around us a disservice by holding onto old friendships at the expense of making new ones.

I'm not suggesting that you should start eliminating old friends from your life like you're picking off contestants on a reality show. There is something very special about deep-rooted relationships; those BFFs who have known and loved you at your best and your worst, through bad breakups and even worse wardrobe choices.

But recognizing when you've outgrown certain individuals you have nothing in common with anymore can help you create some room in your brain and in your life for a few new friends.

Don't make it The Motto

Drake might rap about having a No New Friends policy, but we do ourselves and the people around us a disservice by holding on to old friendships at the expense of making new ones.

ZOOM

Manufacturing tradition

A team dressed as characters from The Wizard of Oz roll wooden 'cheese' during the Stilton Village Festival cheese-rolling competition on May 6 in Stilton, England. Local people are currently involved in a campaign to bring Stilton cheesemaking back to the village. The cheese is currently made in the counties of Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire. PETER MACDIARMID/GETTY IMAGES

How this cheesy village rolls

An annual tradition invented about 50 years ago to revitalize local businesses attracted about 2,000 people to the Cambridgeshire village of Stilton in the U.K. this year.

The cheese-rolling competition takes place every May Day Bank Holiday Monday in Stilton — the village which gave the cheese its name. Teams roll wooden blocks resembling cheese through the streets. BBC.COM

'Ancient tradition' cooked up by locals

Cheese rolling was invented by two pub landlords who told villagers it was "an ancient tradition" in order to encourage them and others to take part.

Blocks of wood have to be used, because an actual block of cheese would not survive being rolled along the main road. The "cheese" is a block cut from an old telegraph pole and painted to look like the blue-veined cheese.

BBC.COM

Road takes its toll

- The event was originally dreamt up to encourage visitors after the village was bypassed by the A1 in 1959.
- The village, on the old Great North Road between Huntingdon and Peterborough, got rid of its traffic jams when the bypass was built, but the High Street and North Street lost passing trade as a result.

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Call your local councillor

ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

As part of Bristol, England's Make Sunday Special campaign, streets are set up for pedestrian-friendly activities like dancing, yoga classes, concerts and art crawls.

All laudable. But even with the schedule reaching into fall, it'll be hard to top artist Luke Jerram's Park And Slide: a 300-foot, slip-and-slide soap show that drew more than 96,000 people to a lottery deciding who would be among the lucky 360 to belly their way down Park Street. As for us in Canada, there's plenty of summer left for letter campaigns to city halls.

SCREENGRAB

(Via Cinematic Media on Vimeo)

metro

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SCENE 2

DVD review

Veronica Mars

Director. Rob Thomas

Stars. Kristen Bell, Jason Dohring, Enrico Colantoni

The big-screen version of the cult TV series about a teen detective (Kristen Bell) is a homecoming designed to check off all the boxes for the many who wrote the Kickstarter cheques to make it happen.

Newcomers may find themselves mystified by the show's appeal. The movie looks and unfolds more like a pilot for the cancelled fourth Veronica Mars TV season, rather than a rebuilding of the franchise.

Reprising her title role as the teen sleuth in shady beach burgh Neptune, Calif., Bell brings us briskly up to date, highlighting past events that included her volatile romance with town stud Logan (Jason Dohring).

Ardent fans don't need the back story, to which series creator and writer Rob Thomas remains all too faithful as he makes his feature directing debut.

Veronica has supposedly moved on from Neptune (she's now an honours law grad with a job in New York), but the movie is like pressing "play" on a PVR, for a story laden with shout-outs but short on substance.

Extras include deleted scenes and making-of featurettes.

PETER HOWELL

Showgirls: The good, the bad and the ugly

Panned but not forgotten. Film critic Adam Nayman explores the cult success of Showgirls

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News

When it came out, Showgirls was a punching bag. It still is — it's just that now people actually enjoy hating it. It's become a bad cinema classic. But a wave of supporters, including J. Hoberman, Jim Jarmusch and Jacques Rivette, argue that it's a self-aware satire along the lines of director Paul Verhoeven's other work, including RoboCop and Starship Troopers. To this posse, add the critic, scholar and Metro writer Adam Nayman, whose book It Doesn't Suck: Showgirls makes a convincing and enjoyable case for its sneaky and subversive craft.

Did you always feel this way about Showgirls?
I saw it in theatres when it came out. I had to sneak in. The reason I wanted to see it at 14 was I wanted to see why it got zero stars from The Globe and Mail. I was interested in why people thought it was so bad. That probably had something to do with how I watched it the first time: Instead of being skeptical of the movie, I was skeptical of the negativity. Even though I liked it as a teenager, because I thought it was funny and outrageous, it wasn't until I got a little older and a little more well-versed with Verhoeven that I thought it could support a book.

The path of this movie from punchline to video hit is rather extraordinary.
One of the things I'm trying to get across in this is not that Showgirls is a great movie, but to explore what can account in 20 years for that kind of turn. You couldn't find a film critic in 1995 who would give this movie the time of day. And now whether it's for ironic reasons or if people are recognizing the artistry in it, you'd be hard-pressed to find someone who doesn't like it.

Where do you stand?
I wish I'd read more things about Showgirls that said what I think about it, which is that it's well-crafted and some of that craft is persuasive, and then it clashes with how craven some of the dialogue and some of the characters are. To me that would be a more valid critical observation. Instead, you just read review after review of people saying how inept it is and comparing it craft-wise and style-wise to Valley of the Dolls. That's when you realize these people weren't really trying. Or if they were trying, they're just not very good at their jobs.

Since its release, Showgirls has gained a sizeable cult following. CONTRIBUTED

it doesn't suck. showgirls adam nayman

Quoted

"One of the things I'm trying to get across in this is not that Showgirls is a great movie, but to explore what can account in 20 years for that kind of turn." Adam Nayman, author of It Doesn't Suck: Showgirls

Whatcha say? Derulo lets us in his head

Talk Dirty. With guest stars like Snoop Dogg, Tyga and 2 Chainz on new album, Jason's no longer Ridin' Solo

Jason Derulo knows his recent hit, Talk Dirty, is risqué, but he's not too worried about it.

"I try to be conscious of offending anybody, but not that much," he said. "I really just try to do my thing and of course there is going to be backlash on every song that I do, so I don't worry myself too much on that. People saying things like 'objectifying women.' I'm like, 'What are you even talking about?"'

Talk Dirty has dominated pop radio, and the song has peaked at No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. It has sold 3.2-million tracks and features lyrics like "but your booty don't need explaining" and "first-class seat on my lap girl."

"I wasn't surprised that it would hit mainstream. I think in 2014 things, you know, are getting more and more free (and) liberal," he said. "I hear a lot worse."

The smash is from Derulo's third album of the same name; it debuted at No. 4 on the Billboard 200 albums chart last month. The album was released internationally last September under the title Tattoos, but the renamed American version features some new tracks.

Derulo, 24, says both his new album and single reflect his growth as a singer and songwriter.

"I'm comfortable with talking about what my life is and things that I go through," said Derulo, whose hits include Whatcha Say and In My Head.

"This album is a direct representation of who I am as a person and how I speak," he added. "If I was talking to my best friend, you know, this is how I would explain it."

The album is Derulo's first to feature guest stars, and hip-hop acts are a strong part of the pop singer's project. Snoop Dogg, 2 Chainz, Pitbull, Tyga and Kid Ink make appearances.

Derulo, who is finding more success on the urban charts thanks to Talk Dirty, says he started musically in the hip-hop scene.

"Most people don't know my background, but when I first started writing songs for other people it was for hip-hop artists," said Derulo, who co-wrote Birdman's Bossy and songs for Diddy that didn't make his album.

"The world knew me as a pop artist when I first came out, which was cool, you know. I think I'm the first black male artist to actually come out as a pop artist," he added. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"This album is a direct representation of who I am as a person and how I speak."

Jason Derulo, singer

Jason Derulo does what he wants without worrying much about offending anybody, whether that means recording risqué songs or rocking a sweetgreen leather shirt. MATT SAYLES/INVISION/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ledisi's new album, The Truth, finds the sultry singer leaving behind her jazzier influences for a bigger, poppier sound.
UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP

R&B singer Ledisi tells us The Truth

A fresh sound. Golden-voiced singer goes pop on her new record

CHRIS JORDAN
Metro World News

What do Beyoncé, John Legend and Ledisi have in common?

They all performed at Michelle Obama's birthday party in January. For Ledisi, who has just released a new album called The Truth, it was, and it wasn't, just another day at the White House. The R&B singer has performed there multiple times.

"It's always the same feeling where I have an aha moment: 'Whoa, I can't believe I'm here," Ledisi says.

"(The President and Michelle Obama) make you feel so comfortable, it's like talking to friends or family members and they love music and people. They look you in the eye when they're speaking and you might be calm on the outside but inside, you're freaking out — they really appreciate my gift!"

The Obama-Ledisi connection became public in 2010 when Michelle Obama told People Magazine that "she's got that really pretty voice."

The voice, which has racked up eight Grammy nominations so far, should get broader appeal, thanks to The Truth.

The tracks have a bit more contemporary, poppier feel than the sultry ballads and jazzy excursions of her previous albums. The lead single, I Blame You, is an appealing mid-tempo R&B jam which showcases the soaring power of Ledisi's pipes.

"It's about wanting to open up to different audiences that I think I have been closed to," Ledisi says. "I wanted to open it up to younger audiences — if I've been ignoring them, it wasn't on purpose."

Ledisi, full name Ledisi Anibade Young, is a New Orleans native who moved to Oakland in her teens. She started out on the indie route with 2000's Soulsinger: The Revival and her major-label debut was 2007's Lost & Found on Verve.

Now, it's time for The Truth.

"There are songs that will make you feel upbeat and songs about relationships that didn't work," Ledisi says. "I'm embracing who I am and who I've become."

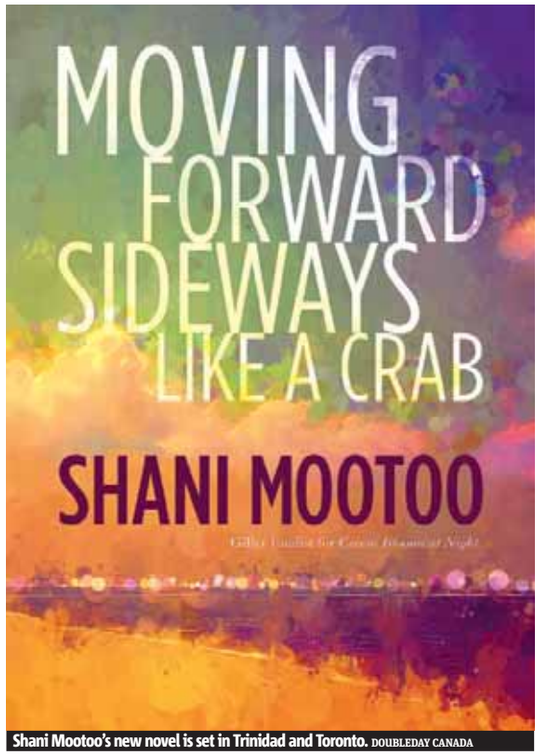
Quoted

"There are songs that will make you feel upbeat and songs about relationships that didn't work."

Ledisi, on her new album The Truth

Shani Mootoo explores the nature of identity

Finding belonging. Inspired by her experiences growing up in Trinidad, Mootoo's latest novel examines gender identity



Shani Mootoo's new novel is set in Trinidad and Toronto. DOUBLEDAY CANADA

Celebrated Canadian writer Shani Mootoo says she always knew she would leave her native Trinidad.

An aspiring artist from a young age, the island didn't offer the higher levels of schooling she knew she would need to pursue her career goal. Then as she grew older, she didn't see herself being reflected in the country, feeling that as a woman she "was maybe too adventurous, too curious to be happy in a place like Trinidad."

"Then of course as I began to come out as lesbian, I realized I would have to live an incredibly closeted life," she said in a recent interview at the offices of Random House of Canada.

"When I came here to Canada, this was like 30 years ago, it's not as if I stepped into a new country where I could be free. There were a lot of struggles, but in Trinidad, I never met gay or lesbian people at that time."

Mootoo explores that urge to leave one's native country in order to find a sense of belonging in her new novel, Moving Forward Sideways Like a Crab (Doubleday Canada).

The story unfolds in the form of a memoir written by Jonathan Lewis-Adey, a Toronto writer who went to Trinidad nine years ago in search of his estranged parent, Sid. To Jonathan's surprise, he discovered Sid had transitioned from female to male and was living as Sydney.

As Jonathan reconnects with an ailing Sydney, he tries to understand why his father left him and his mother back in Toronto decades earlier, and why Sydney went through his gender reassignment.

Jonathan also attempts to piece together the relationship between Sydney and his close friend, a woman named Zain. He does this through conversations and his writing.

The book contains rich descriptions of the landscape and culture of Trinidad, a country Mootoo has written about in her previous novels, which include Cereus Blooms at Night. That book was a Scotiabank Giller Prize finalist and made the long list for the Man Booker Prize.

Quoted

"I don't know what the agenda really is to try to keep people in these narrow paths, and I think if anything needs surgery it's society, really."

Shani Mootoo, author
on society's concepts of gender

GRAHAM DAVIES

Like Sid, Mootoo also left Trinidad for Canada solo, and she drew on her own experience of immigration as she crafted the novel.

"I think for people who immigrate on their own, without the armature of family to support them, I think it can be very, very lonely," she said. "Nobody knows who you are, nobody knows your history and, in a case like a person who is gay like Sid, there would've been more isolation."

Mootoo focuses more on Sid's journey toward gender transition than on the medical process behind it — an approach she said was influenced by Virginia Woolf's Orlando.

"It's exquisite because there wasn't the medical journey, therefore there wasn't the medical language. But it was about passion and love and how to use language to move between genders."

Mootoo said she wanted to show the reader the consequences of changing the body, one of which is "what you leave behind, who you leave behind, who suffers because of this."

"The other thing that I cannot get my head around — and this is what this novel was, really, to try to help me to find a way through, was — is it really the person who has to do the gender reassignment or is it society that needs to change to make room, to allow there to be room for people who want to be any way they want to be?"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Everybody loves Ray ... at HBO. Romano cast in Martin Scorsese's latest series about a New York record label

The former Everybody Loves Raymond star Ray Romano will share the screen with Bobby Cannavale, Olivia Wilde and Juno Temple in Martin Scorsese's next series for HBO. The pilot will be shot this summer.

The untitled series will focus on Richie Finestra, a record executive seeking fresh talent and a new sound to revive his New York label. The cocaine-fuelled character experiences an exciting time in the music industry, starting in 1977, when disco is taking off and punk and hip hop are beginning to emerge.

Bobby Cannavale, who is known to HBO viewers for his role on Boardwalk Empire, was cast in the series' title role in June 2013. Since then, it has been revealed that the actor will be joined by Olivia Wilde, who will play his wife Devon, and by Juno Temple.

The latest addition to the cast, Ray Romano will play Zak Yankovich, Richie's right-hand man and confidant.

The project has been in the works at HBO for nearly four years now. First mentioned in July 2010 under the working title History of Music, the series was initially slated to explore 40 years of music through the friendship of two industry players. But the premise of the series changed in October 2011 following the arrival of Terence Winter, the screenwriter known for his work on Boardwalk Empire and The Sopranos.

As he did for Boardwalk Empire, Martin Scorsese will direct the pilot for the new series, which he will co-produce with Mick Jagger. AFP

Ray Romano has landed a role on the rock 'n' roll HBO series that's being co-produced by Mick Jagger. LEE CELANO/AFP

Rising Star

CTV to premiere new interactive talent show

Canadians will be able to vote alongside U.S. viewers when the singing competition Rising Star debuts this summer on CTV and ABC.

CTV has acquired exclusive Canadian broadcast rights to the show, which has become a hit in Israel.

From Keshet International and the executive producers of American Idol and The Voice, Rising Star will tally votes in real time through a free app available in Canada and the U.S.

The show sees aspiring singers, ranging from solo acts to groups, perform behind a giant wall of television screens displaying the faces of viewers at home. Competitors can see how they're doing in real-time — as viewers, judges and the studio audience vote, a live results meter reveals whether they're a hit or a miss.

When the votes reach a certain level, the screen in front of them slowly rises to reveal the performers.

Rising Star is set to premiere June 22 on CTV.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the televised competition Rising Star singers perform behind a giant wall of TVs with images of home viewers. COURTESY KESHET BROADCASTING

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Television

Double agent Kim Philby could inspire new series

The British MI6 spy Kim Philby, who turned out to be working for the KGB during the Cold War, has attracted the attention of Lionsgate Entertainment.

The studio has optioned the biography on Kim Philby, A Spy Among Friends by Ben Macintyre, to develop a new TV series, Deadline.com reports.

A member of the British Secret Intelligence Service from 1940 into the Cold War, Philby became a legend in spy history.

After discovering communist philosophy while still a student at Cambridge during the 1930s, Philby quickly became an undercover KGB informant even as he rose in the ranks at the MI6.

The biography tells how Philby betrayed two of his closest friends in the West: Nicholas Elliott of the MI6 and James Angleton, who was head of the CIA Counterintelligence division from 1954 to 1974. AFP

Simpsons murder mystery. It's anyone's guess which character will say sayonara

The fall season premiere of The Simpsons will be a Game of Thrones parody called The Yellow Wedding, and the show is committing to it in a big way: One of its characters will die for good. But which one? Barney? Grandpa? Krusty the Clown?

Showrunner Al Jean dropped a few hints about who'll be going to the big doughnut in the sky.

"This is going to be a bigger deal than King Joffrey on Game of Thrones — The Yellow Wedding!" Jean told TV Line. "The character that dies is portrayed by an actor who won an Emmy for playing that character. People who reported on it then reported we were killing an 'iconic' character; I'd like to say it's a great character, but I never used the word 'iconic.' It's a terrific character and it (happens in) our premiere this coming year."

Jean also implied that the actor who voices the doomed character doesn't voice any others on the show. "What we told the performer is, 'This does not mean the end of your participation in The Simpsons,'" he said, suggesting they could return in a dream sequence or the Halloween special Treehouse of Horror.

Fans have pieced that information together and believe they know who bites the dust: Rabbi Hyman Krustofsky, Krusty the Clown's dad.

Who? Well, quite. If The Simpsons wants to emulate Game of Thrones, it's got to kill someone who's actually beloved.

MELINDA TAUB/METRO WORLD NEWS

The Simpsons included this tribute to actress Marcia Wallace in the opening credits for the Nov. 3 episode. FOX

Bryan Singer ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

X-Men director accused of sexually assaulting a second teen boy

A second man has come forward accusing X-Men: Days of Future Past director Bryan Singer of sexual assault.

The British man, referred to as John Doe #117, is represented by Jeff Herman, the same lawyer as the first accuser, Michael Egan. Doe claims he was introduced to Singer at the U.K. premiere party for Superman Returns when he was 17 years old. His complaint claims that Singer offered him drugs, and later grabbed him in a sexual manner and asked him to perform sex acts, according to The Daily Beast. After he refused, he says, a "large, muscle-bound man" hit him.

Singer's lawyer, Marty Singer, maintained that the accusations are false.

"After the substance of Mr. Herman's previous defamatory and fabricated filing in Hawaii was disproved based on unassailable evidence, Mr. Herman's desperation has led him to fabricate these new anonymous accusations against Mr. Singer, which we will also prove to be completely false," Marty Singer told The Daily Beast.

The allegations are similar to those made by the first accuser. Egan, who was 17 at the time of the alleged assaults in 1998, was then an aspiring model and actor. He claims he met the director through a Hollywood sex ring run by Marc Collins-Rector, a producer and convicted sex offender.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

TWITTER

How many celeb doppelgängers does blonde Levine have?

Ryan Gosling

Pink

Tilda Swinton

When Pretty McPretty boy Adam Levine tweeted out this photo of his new hairstyle (along with his pillow-lipped fiancée, Behati Prinsloo) on Saturday, everyone got pretty mad that he would go ahead and ruin that pretty face of his. So mad that "Adam Levine" started trending. However, the Maroon 5 singer took it all in stride. "I hope people understand that when they say my hair looks creepy, I take that as the highest compliment," he wrote about the hairy backlash.

However, Levine must know that he now looks like a certain ... someone. Maybe even a few someones? We compiled the women — and man — he now resembles. Anyone we're missing? Write to scene@metronews.ca to let us know.

Kim Kardashian and Kanye West

Kute kouple Kim and Kanye licensed to wed

Kanye West and Kim Kardashian are well on their way to wedded bliss. They have the multi-million dollar home, they have the baby and now they have the papers.

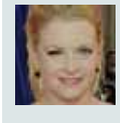
Life & Style is reporting the power duo are officially married on paper, after a source told the magazine they got their licence in California. Although they could just be teasing us, since they've got 90 days to get hitched in the county in which they received their marriage licence.

In any case, the spectacle isn't off: Sources say plans are still on for their huge Paris wedding this month.

Twitter

@georgelopez
Happy #CincoDeMayo! Today EVERYBODY is Mexican _ So watch your cholesterol, and drive slow #chingon

@TheEllenShow:
Feliz Cinco de Mayo! This might be Mayo favorite holiday



@melissajoanhart
Toasting with some water at #BarTaco for #CincoDeMayo. Saving my margarita for tonight.

Gettin' swishy with it

Oil pulling. Does this Ayurvedic detox technique actually work, or is it just a load of hogwash?

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News in London

Coconut is renowned for its antibacterial properties, so coconut oil is a popular choice for oil pulling. ISTOCK

Oil pulling — an ancient Ayurvedic ritual whereby unrefined oil is swished in the mouth for 10 to 20 minutes a day — is thought to improve oral health and reduce toxic inflammation in the body. Two experts talk us through the mechanics and potential benefits of this holistic, and pretty harmless, technique.

It's a detox trick that's not expensive or difficult

According to L.A.-based neurologist and Ayurveda expert Dr. Kulreet Chaudhary, this is all you need to do: Wake up and either brush or floss your teeth. Now take one tablespoon of vegetable oil (or simply half fill the mouth) and slowly start to swirl it around, pulling it through your teeth. The idea is that you're not gargling it, but actively swishing it in your mouth. Do this for 10 to 20 minutes and then spit out the oil (do not swallow it as it now contains toxins), and brush your teeth again.

"The theory behind this practice is that saliva is one of the conduits for toxins throughout your body. This is because the salivary glands are able to pull toxins out of the bloodstream and store them there at a higher concentration," she tells Metro.

"What oil pulling does is it increases the secretion of saliva and extrapolates some of the toxins that have been sucked into the glands by trapping them inside the oil."

Cure-all for almost everything

According to Chaudhary, oil pulling is one of the cheapest, and fastest, ways of getting rid of a mild dental disease.

"When done daily, oil pulling can help cure conditions such as tartar build-up, bad breath and gingivitis within weeks," says Chaudhary. But she says it goes way beyond oral hygiene.

"The mouth is kind of a measuring stick in terms of inflammation for the rest of the body.

"If I have a patient suffering from heavy metal poisoning, migraines or rheumatoid arthritis, this is one the tools I use to help detox their entire body," she adds.

The best oil of them all?

"In Ayurvedic medicine, sesame oil is believed to be a complete oil: one that suits all body types and constitutions. It also contains high amounts of vitamin C, which can help heal wounds and strengthen the immune system," says Dr. Deepa Apté, an Ayurvedic practitioner.

He says sesame oil's ability to permeate the cell membranes make it ideal for oil pulling. That said, make sure you're not using an oil you're allergic to; sunflower or coconut work just as well.

"Coconut is renowned for its antibacterial properties and is a good option for people suffering from inflammation in the body — the root cause of most diseases and internal imbalances," says Chaudhary.

Your face is getting action

The contracting-relaxing motion engages your facial muscles in a mini-workout. "When done regularly, oil pulling helps increase blood circulation to the face and reduces the appearance of fine lines and dark circles," says Apté.

Natural — not miracle — cure

"There's this misconception. People are like, 'I'm still going to eat my doughnut, drink my Coke and stay up all night — but I'll do oil pulling.' It's something we do to balance the body, but it doesn't erase a bad habit," warns Chaudhary. "It gets a little misleading to say it will cure your acne or fix your teeth because it's never given in isolation; it's part of a toolbox for controlling a condition."

For your phone

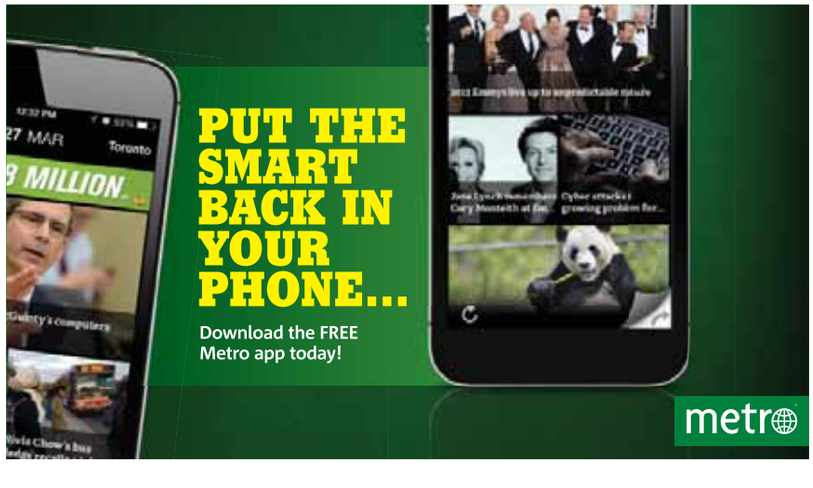
My Incredible Body (iPad, iPhone; $2.99)

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

This 3D atlas of the human body offers narrated fly-throughs and interactive activities that demonstrate how major body functions and senses work. An excellent resource for parents and curious kids.

Half-Off

Now that spring has sprung, Elisha has recommitted to her Half-Off goal and put more exercise at the top of the list. With intentions to ride her bike to work every day, would a fluke spring snowstorm finally be the event that derailed her? Visit metronews.ca/voices/halfoff to find out.



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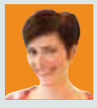
See that symbol? It means you can scan the photograph below with your Metro News app.
Want to substitute a local beer? Theresa Albert learns more about microbreweries

Health Solutions

Spoons and forks are sooo last season



NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert
DHN, RNCP
myfriendinfood.com

This season it is all about handheld food.

The days of the dog being the only thing eaten on city streets and at cookouts is over.

More gourmet foods are hitting the pavement and one of the best examples of that can be found at Kanga, Toronto's first Aussie meat pie shop.

Intended to be enjoyed Down Under style with all the ease and swagger of an Australian treat, Aussies get cheeky with nontraditional fillings like butter chicken and pulled pork.

Co-owners Megan Chan and Erynn Maynes say, "Aussie meat pies are saucier than your average pie, topped with flakey puff pastry, and are intended to be eaten with one hand only. The other is strictly reserved for the beverage of your choice!"

Go handheld with these other ideas this summer:

- Sushi hand rolls
- Tacos are still all the rage
- Pulled pork in lettuce wraps
- Jumbo samosas
- Empanadas
- Tamales

Remember that the sides and dressings can make or break your calorie count. Mustard and hot sauce, yes! Mayo and anything deep fried, no.

And always, always fill up with a salad.

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST IN TORONTO. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

Burgers and pizza, there's a new handheld kid on the block

Aussie Meat Pie. These savoury filled pastries are perfect for those days when you don't have time to slow down

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

1. Preheat your electric pie maker, grilled cheese maker or waffle maker.

2. On medium heat, fry the onion in the oil and butter till soft. Add garlic and thyme.

3. Sprinkle the flour in the pan and fry until a light golden colour (about 1 minute).

4. Pour in the beer and incorporate with the flour, and the mixture will thicken. Allow the beer to reduce for 3-4 minutes.

5. In a separate frying pan, fry ground beef and drain off fat. Add in tomato paste.

Ingredients

- 1/2 medium onion
- 1 tbsp butter + 1 tbsp oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 tsp dried thyme leaves
- 1 tbsp flour
- 3/4 cup dark beer
- 1 lb lean ground beef
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- 1 cup beef stock
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Ketchup to taste
- Two sheets of butter puff pastry (1 pkg)

This recipe makes two pies. THERESA ALBERT

6. Add the cooked ground beef mixture and beef stock into the pan with beer and onions.

7. Season with salt and pepper to taste and set aside,

8. Line pie maker, grilled cheese maker or waffle maker with pastry, spoon in filling (usually about 1/3 of a cup). Allow to cook according to appliance instructions, usually about 8 minutes.

9. Enjoy with ketchup — or "tomato sauce" as the Aussies call it! Cheers, mate!

COURTESY ERYNN MAYNES, CO-OWNER KANGA

Chicken Taco spice route leads to Peru

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
- 2 small onions, minced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) ground coriander
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) cumin
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) paprika
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) freshly ground black pepper
- 2 pkg (about 775 g total) boneless skinless chicken thighs, cut in thin strips
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped fresh coriander
- 1 pkg (156 g) PC Taco Shells
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) medium heat salsa
- 1 cup (250 ml) roughly chopped iceberg lettuce
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) PC Tex Mex Shredded Cheese Blend

The combination of spices gives these tacos a Peruvian spin.

1. Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). In large frying pan, heat 1 tbsp (15 ml) of the oil over medium-high heat; cook onion, garlic, coriander, cumin, paprika, salt and pepper for 4 to 6 minutes or until tender. Push onions to side of pan. Add remaining 1 tbsp (15 ml) oil and chicken; cook for 10 minutes, stirring often, or until cooked through. Remove from heat. Stir in chopped coriander.

2. Remove taco shells from packaging. Arrange shells open side down in a single layer on a baking sheet. Bake for 5 to 7 minutes or until crisp and light golden brown. Carefully remove from oven.

3. Divide chicken mixture evenly among the taco shells. Top each taco with salsa, lettuce and cheese and arrange on platter. **PRESIDENT'S CHOICE**

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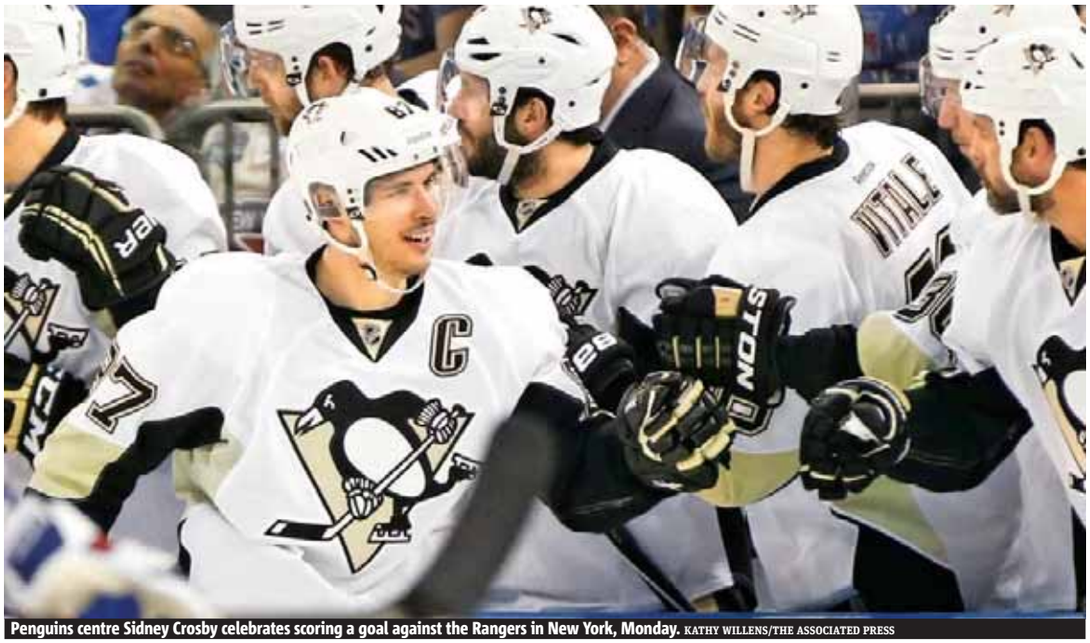


Penguins centre Sidney Crosby celebrates scoring a goal against the Rangers in New York, Monday. KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crosby's post-season scoring touch arrives

NHL playoffs.
Penguins captain ends goalless drought, Fleury makes 35 saves in shutout of Rangers

MVP as voted by NHLPA

Sidney Crosby of the Penguins, Ryan Getzlaf of the Ducks and Claude Giroux of the Flyers have been nominated as finalists for the Ted Lindsay Award.

- The award is presented annually to the most valuable player in the NHL, as voted by fellow members of the National Hockey League Players' Association.

Sidney Crosby scored his first goal of these playoffs, and Marc-Andre Fleury earned his second shutout of the New York Rangers in two nights as the Pittsburgh Penguins regained home-ice advantage with a 2-0 victory in Game 3 on Monday night.

Crosby snapped a 13-game goal drought in the playoffs to give the Penguins the lead in the second period, and Jussi Jokinen added a breakaway goal. Fleury stopped 35 shots to back up his 22-save effort Sunday in a 3-0 win in Pittsburgh. He has eight career post-season shutouts and 51 wins.

The Penguins, who lost the opener in overtime, lead the Eastern Conference semifinal series 2-1. Game 4 is Wednesday in New York.

Henrik Lundqvist made 13 saves for the weary Rangers, who played for the fifth time in seven days. They have consecutive losses in these playoffs for the first time.

The tide turned in Pittsburgh's favour in the second period for the third straight game.

New York had 2:15 remaining on a four-minute power play that began in the first period, but couldn't cash in. To make matters worse for the Rangers, Crosby took a long stretch pass from defenceman Robert Bortuzzo, outraced Marc Staal, and beat Lundqvist between the pads from the left circle just 19 seconds after James Neal left the penalty box. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC

Rousey rips TUF

A recent impromptu brawl between rival coaches Chael Sonnen and Wanderlei Silva on the TV set of The Ultimate Fighter: Brazil had MMA fans rushing to find the video.

Ronda Rousey
GETTY IMAGES

Not UFC women's bantamweight champion Ronda Rousey, who was a coach on Season 18. "They don't know the first thing about fighting," she said.

"They treated us like we were Real Housewives of Atlanta and not elite athletes that should be respected."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA playoffs

Wizards draw first blood in series against Pacers

Bradley Beal scored 14 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter and Trevor Ariza added 22 on Monday night, leading Washington past top-seeded Indiana 102-96 for a 1-0 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Wizards won a second-round game for the first time since 1982 and are 4-0 on the road in this year's playoffs. They ended a 12-game losing streak at Indiana that dated to April 18, 2007, and they did it by nearly leading from wire-to-wire.

Paul George and George Hill had 18 points each for the Indiana.

Game 2 is Wednesday night at Indiana.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harry Jones of Canada breaks free of the New Zealand defence to score during the IRB Glasgow Sevens in Glasgow, Scotland. MARK RUNNACLES/GETTY IMAGES

Scan this image with your Metro News app to see more from Sunday's action.

Canada riding high ahead of Commonwealth Games

The Canadian seven rugby side flew out of Glasgow on Monday having made history there by reaching the final at an HSBC Sevens World Series stop for the first time.

Next time the Canadian men are in Scotland, Commonwealth Games medals will be on the line.

It was a banner weekend for the Canadians at the Glasgow Sevens. They won their preliminary pool Saturday, defeating Japan and France and tying England. Canada then defeated Kenya 14-5 in the quarter-final and Scotland 10-7 in the semi-final before going down 54-7 at the hands of powerful New Zealand in the final.

The lopsided loss made for a strange "bit of an empty feeling" Sunday that was undeserved, said head coach Geraint John. "We shouldn't have had that, really," he said Monday. "Because to get to the final in the (World) Series for the very first time, it's a pretty outstanding achievement by everyone.

"I think today everybody's feeling a little bit better."

Canadians Phil Mack and John Moonlight were both named to the Glasgow tournament's all-star or Dream Team. Conor Trainor, meanwhile, turned heads with a circus-like try against France when he got his boot to a low pass in mid-flight and managed to tap it into his hands before sprinting over the line. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will get what you desire today but you will have to pay a price for it. The planets will reward you for your hard work but they will also ask you to sacrifice something you may not want to give up.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
The Sun's link to Jupiter will give your confidence a much-needed boost today but you may still have to learn that in order to get some you also have to give some.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You will be in one of your more impulsive moods today. Try not to spend money on things you don't need unless you know you can afford it — and unless you have won the lottery you know full well you cannot.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You will be called upon to help someone in need and no matter how busy you might be with your own tasks and chores you must come to their aid.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The planets warn that you may have deviated from your blueprint by a small amount, so maybe you should stand back from what you are working on and make sure it is still going according to plan.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It's time to get working on something of a creative nature that you have been thinking about for quite some time. It will take a great deal of effort, both physical and mental, but it will be a success.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't try to force others to do your bidding today because they will make such an emotional scene that even you will be embarrassed.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Someone you encounter on your travels will turn out to be a very important contact, both personally and professionally. Make an effort to get out and about and meet people.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If others won't give you what you deserve then you will just have to take it for yourself. You have worked long and hard to reach your current position and have no intention of letting others take the glory.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may be eager for success but don't forget the many responsibilities that go with it. Remember, once you have committed to something, once you have signed on the line.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Something is holding you back, something is stopping you from reaching your true potential. According to the planets it could be your own self-doubt that is preventing you from pushing ahead.

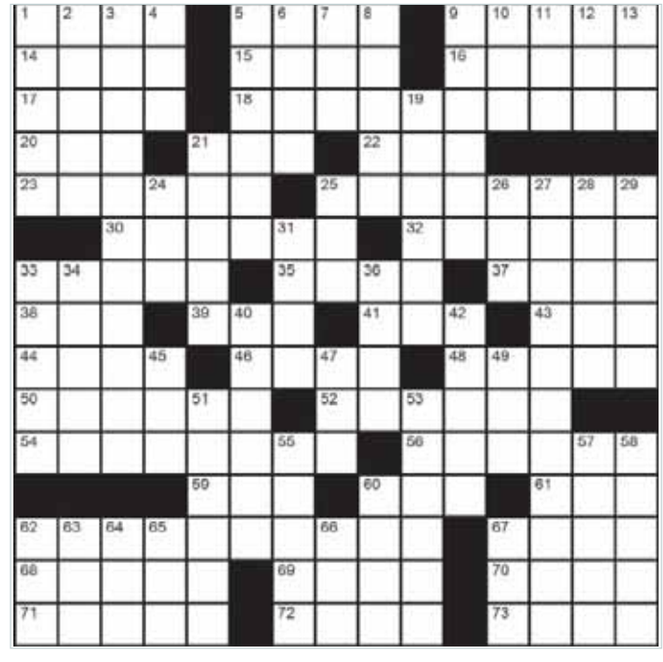
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Keep your long-term goals at the forefront of your mind and don't let anyone put you off your quest. So-called friends will come up with all sorts of reasons why you should think again. Be true to your instincts.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

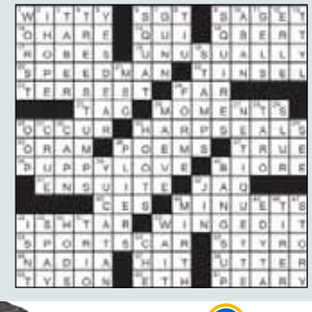
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Sort
5. Dither
9. Frigid
14. Currency exchange fee
15. Jumble
16. France: Winery river valley
17. Canvas sneakers brand
18. Annual overseas song contest currently underway in Copenhagen
20. "__ be better if..."
21. Gallery piece
22. Movie genre, __-com
23. Sedately
25. Southern Ontario city; or, ABBA song which was the #18-Across winner in 1974
30. Toronto-born jazz singer, __-Claire Barlow
32. The Band's "_ __ Be Released"
33. Hurt
35. Mr. Griffin
37. 'Chant' suffix
38. Mailing encl.
39. Champion
41. Moray __
43. Finished with work [abbr.]
44. British streetcar
46. 'Problem' suffix
48. Kimberly Stewart's mom
50. Country singer Jason
52. Impaler's weapons
54. Toronto Blues Jays sport
56. Degrees
59. Poet's 'not closed'
60. Mr. Craven
61. Bottle's 'lid'
62. Biosphere Reserve region of Quebec
67. Volcanic shape
68. Beach item
69. Against
70. Russian river
71. Ms. Blair
72. Egg masses
73. Alter

Down
1. Joe __ (Colorado Avalanche executive born in Burnaby, BC)
2. Songbook standard: "_ __ _ Kick Out of You"
3. Spring's curly-topped shoots
4. Froms opposites
5. Ms. Crow
6. Seagoing, shortly
7. Galilee's locale [abbr.]
8. Ms. Birch
9. Juno-winning musician aka Claire Boucher
10. Uncertain utterances
11. Law: French
12. Ancient veil-giver
13. Study
19. Certain candle
21. Actress Ms. Valli
24. French 'Mrs.'
25. Diminutive
26. Scoreboard letters over '0 0 0' at the start of a game of #54-Across
27. War of 1812 heroine, b.1775 - d.1868: 2 wds.
28. Clark Kent's co-worker Jimmy
29. "Get Here" by __ Adams
31. "How _ __ Your Mother"
33. Take _ __ at (Attempt)
34. "Cheers" barmaid
36. Prefix with 'angle'
40. Toasty tray tidbit
42. The Great __
45. Michie __, Canadian rapper
47. PEI part [abbr.]
49. After-Exodus bk.
51. Ancient cloak
53. Tony-winning Canadian actress Ms. Smith (b.1921 - d.1993)
55. Mr. Burton
57. Hawaiian island
58. Wheat type
60. __-Out (Bic product)
62. Li'l dollar parts
63. Gardener's tool
64. Hole-punching tool
65. Ad __ (Relevant)
66. "Thou, too, sail __, _ Ship of State!" - Longfellow
67. Pool stick

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

2				9		6		
6					5	9		3
			8			4		
		6	9		3	7		8
5		8	6		4	2		
		2			6			
9		3	4					2
		4		7				1

Yesterday's Sudoku

2	4	1	3	9	7	6	8	5
6	8	7	1	4	5	9	2	3
3	9	5	8	6	2	4	1	7
1	2	6	9	5	3	7	4	8
4	3	9	7	2	8	1	5	6
5	7	8	6	1	4	2	3	9
7	1	2	5	3	6	8	9	4
9	6	3	4	8	1	5	7	2
8	5	4	2	7	9	3	6	1

Weather

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
MAX: 4° MIN: -1°	MAX: 8° MIN: -2°	MAX: 7° MIN: -4°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

MICHELE MCDOUGALL
WEATHER SPECIALIST
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